

**Questions for the Record for Ambassador Robert E. Lighthizer**

U.S. House Ways and Means Committee

Hearing on U.S.-China Trade

February 27, 2019

**From Representative Brad Wenstrup to Ambassador Robert E. Lighthizer**

1. My colleague Rep. Terri Sewell and I have introduced legislation, H.R. 991, to extend the Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA) for ten years - until 2030. CBTPA is a very important program to the U.S. textile industry because it requires the use of U.S.-made yarns. For the beneficiary nations, CBTPA allows their garment industry a fighting chance to compete with large Asian suppliers such as China and Vietnam. The program is set to expire in September 2020, but investment decisions and production plans are happening now. Certainty is always important to U.S. companies, but especially when doing business in a less-developed countries.

Do you agree that strengthening the U.S. supply chain through mutually beneficial agreements like CBTPA serve as an important backstop against domination by China and other competitors with lower wage and labor standards in certain sectors, in this case the garment industry?

**Answer: The use of U.S.-made inputs in apparel qualifying under the CBTPA continues to be important for Made-in-USA yarns and fabrics. We look forward to working with Congress as it considers legislation to extend the CBTPA program.**